

BY: Senator MONTGOMERY

COMMEMORATING the 39th Anniversary of Black Veterans for Social Justice, Inc. on July 21, 2018

WHEREAS, In the course of the evolving development of this Empire State, where if the ingredients of shared concern and responsive endeavor combine in the commitment to society, there have emerged among the distinguished citizens of the State of New York certain organizations which warrant special recognition; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend those illustrious organizations of the State of New York whose focus and intent have made a substantial impact on the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 39th Anniversary of Black Veterans for Social Justice, Inc., to be celebrated at its Gala On The Sea, Masquerade Ball Black Tie Affair on Saturday, July 21, 2018, aboard the Cornucopia Majesty; and

WHEREAS, On April 18, 1979, a group of veterans from all branches of the military representing enlistees from WWII through Vietnam, came together to provide assistance to veterans with problems; and

WHEREAS, Some immediate problems faced were racism and racist policies, little or poor medical and rehabilitative services, unemployment, no re-entry preparation into society; and

WHEREAS, Many soldiers leaving the military were unaware of their rights or the agencies willing to help them; some veterans experienced hostile social attitudes and a high percentage suffered from exposure to the lethal toxin Agent Orange, and continual readjustment obstacles; and

WHEREAS, Job Mashariki is a Founder and was the President/CEO of Black Veterans for Social Justice, Inc. (BVSJ); he guided the organization through 31 years of service to veterans and their families, as well as the community at large; he stepped down from this position and retired on July 31, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Based in Brooklyn, New York, BVSJ is the largest private community-based agency serving New York City's veterans, their families and the community; and

WHEREAS, BVSJ was developed as an outgrowth of the social justice movement; the initial concern was assisting veterans of the Vietnam War to reintegrate with their families, communities, and the greater society; and

WHEREAS, Today, BVSJ annually serves an average of 15,000 clients, maintains 400 units of housing and several commercial spaces, and

provides an array of social services; and

WHEREAS, BVSJ truly believes all persons could be productive, positive contributors to society, no matter what sex, race, social class, military labels or problems may beset them; all humans wish to do the right thing, but do not often get the opportunity; and given a boost, a helping hand, all people, particularly veterans, would respond positively and productively; and

WHEREAS, This vital organization's roster of programs include its Veteran Service Center, Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), Homeless Veterans Reintegration Programs, Job To Build On/Consortium Of Worker Education, Advocacy and Cultural Activities, Division of Housing Management, Solutions to End Homelessness Program (STEHP), Food Pantry Service, HIV and AIDS Prevention and Outreach, and Veterans Advisory Groups (VAG); and

WHEREAS, BVSJ continues its frontline commitment to both active and inactive military personnel, their families and the community at large; and

WHEREAS, Each year, BVSJ assists thousands of veterans with a myriad of difficulties that arise from transitioning from military to civilian life by providing social services support with tender loving care and a listening ear; and

WHEREAS, Over its distinguished 39 year history, Black Veterans for Social Justice has demonstrated continuous service to the residents and communities which it serves; and

WHEREAS, The success of Black Veterans for Social Justice is in direct correlation to the efforts of President/CEO Wendy McClinton, its Board of Directors and staff, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the organization and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious occasion presents an opportunity for this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to Black Veterans for Social Justice; and

WHEREAS, In light of its commitment, dedication and successful efforts, it is the custom of this Legislative Body to extend its highest commendation to Black Veterans for Social Justice, Inc.; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 39th Anniversary of Black Veterans for Social Justice, Inc. on July 21, 2018; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Wendy McClinton, President/CEO, Black Veterans for Social Justice, Inc.